

# HANDS-FREE ARIZONA


## GOVERNOR DUCEY SIGNS H.B. 2318 – LIMITING MOBILE DEVICE USE WHILE DRIVING

In Arizona, public safety comes first. The signing of a statewide ban on texting and driving enhances the safety of all Arizonans, replaces a patchwork of local ordinances, and provides clarity to law enforcement and drivers alike to end this dangerous driving behavior. With this law, Arizona joins 47 other U.S. states that have also prohibited texting and driving.<sup>1</sup>

## THE FACTS ABOUT TEXTING AND DRIVING


- Drivers who text and drive increase their crash risk **23X**.<sup>2</sup>
- **9%** of fatal crashes in the U.S. were attributed to distraction.<sup>3</sup>
- Impairment from texting and driving is similar to drunk driving.
- **3,166** people were killed by distracted driving in 2017.<sup>3</sup>
- **47** states also ban texting and driving, with **43** making it a primary offense.<sup>1</sup>
- Arizona's new statewide ban replaces **26** different local ordinances.
- States passing hands-free laws experienced a **16%** reduction in fatalities.<sup>4</sup>

## HANDS-FREE ARIZONA SUMMARY




**PROHIBITS**

- ✗ Holding or supporting a wireless device while driving
- ✗ Writing or reading any text-based communication while driving
- ✗ Watching, recording, or broadcasting video while driving




Takes effect immediately, penalties begin 01/01/2021




**EXEMPTIONS**

- Hands-free, voice-to-text
- Stopped at a traffic light
- Reporting an emergency




**PRIMARY OFFENSE**

Makes texting a primary offense, allowing officers to pull over drivers for texting and driving



**CIVIL PENALTY**

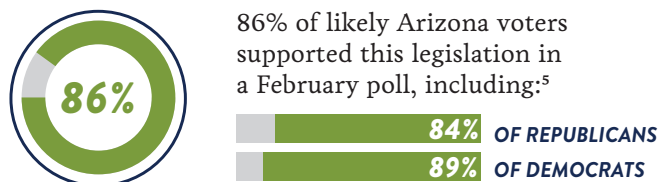
Up to \$150 fine for the first offense and up to \$250 fine for the second and subsequent offenses



**CRIMINAL PENALTY**

Up to 6 months in jail, \$2,500 fine for causing a crash resulting in serious injury or death

## SUPPORTED BY ARIZONANS



<sup>1</sup> AAA Digest of Motor Laws, <https://drivinglaws.aaa.com/tag/distracted-driving/>

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, <https://vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2009/07/2009-571.html>

<sup>3</sup> National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812700>

<sup>4</sup> Georgia General Assembly, [http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/CommitteeDocuments/2017/Distracted\\_Driving/Final\\_Report\\_DistractedDriving.pdf](http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/CommitteeDocuments/2017/Distracted_Driving/Final_Report_DistractedDriving.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Highground Poll, <https://www.azhighground.com/blog/post/a-whopping-96-percent-of-voters-agree>